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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS et al

Atty. Ref.: 2551-97

Serial No. 09/686,964

Group: 1648

Filed: October 12, 2000

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September 10, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 116**

Responsive to the Official Action dated June 17, 2003, entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are requested.